

angle, the convexly curved under side of the distal end, and the smaller diameter and rough finish of the tang or manual portion, are all points of resemblance that cannot fail to impress themselves on one who studies the figures and even more so the objects themselves.

There has thus been evolved what is in essential features an almost identical tool, made of the most suitable local material, one used nearly five thousand years ago to excavate rather soft limestone, and the other used to cut wood up to within recent years. This may bear out Prof. Elliot Smith's thesis that some of the Polynesian and Pre-Columbian American culture originated in ancient Egypt after about 800 B.C. and was spread eastward by mariners. I am inclined to think, however, that the tools are of quite independent origin, and that the close resemblances between them are the resultants of the human mind having worked out the problem of rough cutting with hard stone in much the same way.

ENTOMOLOGY.—*A key to some South American bees belonging to the genus Halictus subgenus Chloralictus.* GRACE ADELBERT SANDHOUSE, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado. (Communicated by S. A. ROHWER.)

Although the metallic-colored bees of the Genus *Halictus*, subgenus *Chloralictus*, occur over a large part of the North American continent they are found in South America only along the Andes Mountains; some have been reported from Ecuador, Peru, and Chile, and a few species have evidently crossed the mountains into Argentina. These in general resemble the North American species very closely, there being no more difference between the species from North and South America than exists between many North American species.

The following key includes the females of the South American species in the collection of Professor T. D. A. Cockerell of the University of Colorado.

- Abdomen green, color of head and thorax; (disk of propodeum with irregularly anastomosing rugae).....*danicorum* Cockerell.
- Adomen brown or black..... 1
1. Mesothorax opaque, microscopically tessellate between very close punctures.....*spinolae* Reed.
- Mesothorax shining or more sparsely punctured..... 2
2. Tegulae pale..... 3
- Tegulae dark..... 5
3. Head and thorax golden green; knees, tips of tibiae and tarsi red-testaceous.....*chrysonotus* Ellis.
- Head and thorax not golden green; legs dark..... 4

4. Stigma and nervures pale; disk of propodeum dull, the entire area covered with irregularly anastomosing rugae. *paramorio* Friese.
Stigma and nervures dark testaceous; disk of propodeum shining, plicate on base only; mesothorax more closely punctured. *hypochlorus* Ellis.
5. Mesothorax coarsely punctured; flagellum dark; disk of propodeum suberescentic, with anastomosing rugae. *herbstiellus* Friese.
Mesothorax weakly punctured; flagellum testaceous beneath; disk of propodeum shorter, shining, plicate on the base only. *exiguiformis* Ellis.

HALICTUS (CHLORALICTUS) SPINOLAE (Reed)

Since no recent or full description of *Halictus spinolae* (Reed) is readily available in this country, the writer gives the following:

Female—About 4.5–5 mm. long; head and thorax olive green; abdomen black; pubescence white, rather sparse. Facial quadrangle longer than broad; orbits converging below; antennae dark, flagellum testaceous beneath; front very closely punctured, giving an almost granular appearance; sides of face with more scattered punctures; supra-clypeal area and upper part of clypeus microscopically tessellate, sparsely punctured, with a brassy reflection; lower half of clypeus black; mandibles black. Mesothorax dull, finely tessellate and very closely punctured; punctation of scutellum similar to that of the mesothorax, two polished spots on the disk; disk of propodeum with fine, irregularly anastomosing rugae, making a reticulate surface; tegulae dark brown, impunctate; truncation well defined laterally. Abdomen obovate, shining, impunctate; pubescence sparse, especially on the first segment; apical margins of segments narrowly testaceous. Wings clear, anterior wing 3.5 mm. long; stigma and nervures testaceous; second submarginal cell higher than broad, receiving the first recurrent nervure near the apex; third submarginal gently contracted above, about one and one-half times as long as second on the marginal. Legs black with dull white hairs; hind spur pectinate with four moderately long teeth.

The following locality is new: 1 female (Foothills) Lima, Peru, December 5 (C. H. T. Townsend).

The description given above is based on this Peruvian specimen, which was found to be identical with a specimen of *spinolae* from Chile, determined by C. Schrottky.

BOTANY.—*New or little known Melastomataceae from Venezuela and Panama.* H. PITTIER.

In the course of my investigations on the flora of Venezuela, in which I have been so efficiently helped through the coöperation of my friend Dr. Alfred Jahm, I am constantly coming across plants which have never been catalogued. These are of course more interesting to me when they belong to groups with which I have become familiar during former studies.¹

¹ See PITTIER, H. *New or noteworthy plants from Colombia and Central America*, parts 1–8, in *Contr. U. S. Nat. Herb.* 12–20. 1909–1922.